

# Habitats and Adaptations Winter Post-visit Project

## Who Am I? Riddle Activity

**Objective:** Students identify local wildlife and their habitat by analyzing clues that describe their adaptations and behaviors.

**Materials:** Set of “Who Am I” cards for each group of students, pencils and paper for scorekeeping, index cards for extension

**Activity time:** 30 minutes; 90 minutes for extension

### **Background:**

To survive in their habitats, living things have adaptations or special features. These adaptations help them meet their needs for food, water, protection against enemies and to cope with environmental conditions.

### **Procedure:**

1. Before the game, copy the “Who Am I” Riddle sheets and cut into cards (1 set for each team of students). Select from the harder or easier set depending on your students’ skill levels. Divide students into teams of 4-5.
2. Review the concept of adaptations (special features or tools that help living things survive in their environment). Ask students to give you an example of an adaptation.
3. Tell students that they are going to play a riddle game and must guess an animal’s identity and habitat.
4. Hand out a set of “Who Am I” cards to each group. Tell them not to look at the cards before the game starts. Have them put the cards face down on a desk in a pile.
5. Explain that each card contains 5 facts about the adaptations and habits of a local animal. Based on the clues, students will try to guess the name of the animal and the habitat where it is found.
6. Each group picks one person to be the first “reader” and one person as scorekeeper. The reader will read clues, one at a time, in order, until someone in the group can guess the animal and give its habitat. The score is based on how many clues were read before someone could guess. Scorekeeper gives that person a score as follows: One clue read = 5 points, 2 clues read = 4 points, 3 clues read = 3 points, 4 clues read = 2 points, all clues read = 1 point.
7. The student who correctly guessed the riddle becomes the new reader and begins reading clues on the next card. Continue the game until all the cards are read.
8. Wrap-up. Discuss how adaptations enable organisms to live in their environment. Ask students to summarize the adaptations included in the game.

### **Extension and Evaluation:**

Have students each pick a different local animal and visit the library to research that animal. Have them create a 5-clue riddle and write it on an index card. Play game as above with their riddles.

# “Who Am I?” Riddles: Harder Set

Who Am I?

1. I catch insects in mid-flight at night.
2. During the day, I sleep in buildings and trees.
3. I am one of two true hibernating mammals in Ohio.
4. I am the only flying mammal in Ohio. My front legs are modified into wings.
5. I use sonar to hunt at night. I make high-pitched sounds which echo back the location of insects.

Answer: (Little Brown) Bat

Habitat: forest and open city areas

Who Am I?

1. My tongue curves over the top of my skull. I can shoot my tongue out twice the length of my head to grab food.
2. My tongue is sticky with pointed bristles to catch insects.
3. I have black and white feathers. If I am a male, I have a red patch on my head.
4. I have powerful neck muscles and a strong skull with air spaces to absorb shock.
5. I have a sharp, pointed beak that I use to pry insects from under bark.

Answer: (Downy) Woodpecker

Habitat: forest

Who Am I?

1. I use so much energy that I have to eat 50 times a day.
2. My daily sugar intake is half of my weight.
3. I depend so much on flying that I can barely walk on my weak legs.
4. I am the only bird that can hover and fly backward. I can beat my wings 50 times per second.
5. I eat insects and nectar. My long tongue sucks nectar out of flowers.

Answer: Hummingbird

Habitat: forest/meadow/garden

Who Am I?

1. I eat frogs, toads, earthworms and mice.
2. When scared, I squirt bad-smelling stuff from under my tail.
3. I am one of the few reptiles that give birth to live young instead of laying eggs.
4. I am a medium-sized snake, usually 18-24 inches long.
5. I have 3 light stripes on a dark background color. I may be found in gardens, meadows or forests.

Answer: Garter snake (commonly called garden or gardener snake)

Habitat: meadows, forests, gardens

# “Who Am I?” Riddles: Harder Set

Who Am I?

1. During the fall, I migrate from here all the way to Mexico to spend the winter.
2. I lay my eggs on milkweed.
3. My young eat milkweed, absorbing poisons from it, to make them taste bad.
4. My young make a chrysalis, in which they turn into an adult.
5. After 12 days in the chrysalis, the new adult comes out with black and orange wings and flies away.

Answer: Monarch Butterfly  
Habitat: Meadow

Who Am I?

1. I have no eyes but have light sensitive skin on both ends of my body.
2. I breathe through my skin.
3. I don't have legs but use setae (hairs under my body) to help me move.
4. I am both male and female.
5. I eat my way through the soil, digesting bits of plants and dead animals, making the soil rich.

Answer: Earthworm  
Habitat: soil

Who Am I?

1. I am the oldest and most primitive mammal in Ohio.
2. I have an average of 9 babies in each litter, but can have as many as 25.
3. I am the only North American marsupial. I carry my young in my pouch for 2 months.
4. When scared, I fall over in a state of shock. I look like I'm dead.
5. I am about the size of a house cat with coarse, gray fur, a long, naked tail and naked ears.

Answer: Opossum  
Habitat: forest

Who Am I?

1. I have dense, oily fur and webbed back feet.
2. When I swim, my ears and nose can close on their own.
3. I use my strong teeth to cut off branches. I put them in my pond to use as food.
4. I use my wide tail as a paddle when I swim.
5. I build my home in the water with sticks and it has an underwater entrance.

Answer: Beaver  
Habitat: streams or rivers

# “Who Am I?” Riddles: Easier Set

Who Am I?

1. I catch insects in mid-flight at night. I am the only flying mammal in Ohio.
2. During the day, I sleep in buildings, trees and caves.
3. I am hibernate in caves during the winter.
4. I use sonar to hunt at night. I make high-pitched sounds which echo back the location of insects.
5. Some people think that I suck blood, but I'm not a vampire.

Answer: Bat

Habitat: forest and open city areas

Who Am I?

1. My tongue curves over the top of my skull. I can shoot my tongue out twice the length of my head to grab food.
2. My tongue is sticky with pointed bristles to catch insects.
3. I have powerful neck muscles and a strong skull with air spaces to take shock.
4. I have a sharp, pointed beak that I use to pry insects from under bark.
5. I peck on wood to find insects and to talk to other birds.

Answer: Woodpecker

Habitat: forest

Who Am I?

1. I use so much energy that I have to eat 50 times a day.
2. I depend so much on flying that I can barely walk on my weak legs.
3. I am the only bird that can hover and fly backward. I can beat my wings 50 times per second.
4. I eat insects and nectar. My long tongue sucks nectar out of flowers.
5. I get my name from the humming sound my wings make when I fly.

Answer: Hummingbird

Habitat: forest/meadow/garden

Who Am I?

1. I am cold-blooded. My body temperature matches the outside temperature.
2. I have lungs, but I also take air in through my skin.
3. I don't drink water, but take it in through my skin.
4. I can jump far and use my long, sticky tongue to catch insects.
5. I spend part of my life in water and part on land. When I am in water, I am called a tadpole.

Answer: Frog

Habitat: pond or creek

# “Who Am I?” Riddles: Easier Set

Who Am I?

1. I can taste with my feet.
2. I lay my eggs on plants. My young crawl around on the plants and eat leaves.
3. My young make a chrysalis, in which they turn into an adult.
4. After 12 days in the chrysalis, the new adult comes out with wings and flies away.
5. As an adult, I use my long, curled tongue to suck nectar from flowers.

Answer: Butterfly

Habitat: Meadow, garden or forest

Who Am I?

1. I have no eyes but have light sensitive skin on both ends of my body.
2. I breathe through my skin.
3. I don't have legs but use setae (hairs under my body) to help me move.
4. I eat my way through the soil, digesting bits of plants and dead animals, making the soil rich.
5. I am slimy, live underground and some people use me as fish bait.

Answer: Earthworm

Habitat: soil

Who Am I?

1. I live where there are trees--even in cities.
2. I live in a leafy nest high in the trees.
3. I eat mostly nuts and fruit.
4. I bury nuts underground in the fall so I'll have food for the winter.
5. I have a gray coat and a bushy tail. I use my tail for balance and to keep me warm, even as a parachute sometimes.

Answer: Squirrel

Habitat: forest, yards

Who Am I?

1. I have dense, oily fur and webbed back feet.
2. When I swim, my ears and nose can close on their own.
3. I use my strong teeth to cut off branches. I put them in my pond to use as food.
4. I use my wide tail as a paddle when I swim.
5. I build my home in the water with sticks and it has an underwater entrance.

Answer: Beaver

Habitat: streams or rivers